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NOTES AND NEWS

"FREE BURGHS" IN THE UNITED STATES.—In the early settlement of the United States corporations were established or contemplated free of county government—"free burghs," as termed in the laws of Virginia. This may be definitely traced, at least in New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia, as well as a claim made by Germantown, now a part of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for independence of county control and county taxes, but overruled. The colonial "free burghs" disappeared except in Virginia. The name itself has disappeared in that state, but the exemption of cities from county control and from county taxes has been perpetuated and the cities today are as independent as the original "free burghs." County officers have only such authority in cities as is given them by special act, and residents of cities participate in the election of county officers and in county business only by express enactment. The inhabitants of cities are exempt from county taxes on property within the cities, with varied provisos as to obligations incurred before incorporation. The county and the city taxes are collected by separate officers and the state school funds are distributed to cities independent of county distribution. Separate courts with original jurisdiction, usually extending one mile beyond corporate limits, are established for cities. Provision for concurrent jurisdiction of county and city courts is sometimes made, as for the waters adjacent to Norfolk and Portsmouth, which are subject to the concurrent jurisdiction of the courts of Norfolk county and of the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth. The inhabitants of cities are exempt from serving on juries in county courts. Deeds and other papers affecting property in the cities are recorded by city officers and not by county officers. Six cities have a peculiar standing, not to be considered as separation from county control, but as a readjustment of relations to county organization growing out of their expansion. These should not be confused with cities independent of counties, either by separation, as Baltimore and St Louis, or by establishment, as the cities of Virginia. The six cities that have grown to occupy county areas and to require rearrangement of their county relations are Washington, D. C., which has practically absorbed Washington county and become

identical with the District; New Orleans, New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, coextensive with Orleans parish, New York, Kings, and Philadelphia counties respectively, preserving certain county officers as such, and San Francisco, identical with San Francisco county, California. Hitherto the facts as to the cities of Virginia have not been generally recognized outside the state. The Congressional Directory stands almost alone among official documents out of the state in recognizing the separateness of the cities. The reports of the Tenth Census, volume VII, page 117, give a list of cities in Virginia paying no county taxes. The United States Civil Service Commission and the Bureau of Internal Revenue have found it necessary to recognize the independent position of city courts or of city governments in Virginia.

These facts, authenticated by citations from the laws and from other authorities, were presented by J. H. Blodgett before the Anthropological Society in a paper which is to be published by the American Historical Association.

THE JEWS OF SOUTHERN RUSSIA.*—By way of introduction, Dr Weissenberg discusses the relation of anthropometry to anthropology; the position of the former in antiquity, in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance; the part it played in the dispute between polygenists and monogenists; the light it shed on the evolution theory of Darwin, and the methods it should adopt in order to assist in the explanation of the origin and causes of the diversity of races. He particularly urges that the measurements should begin with the newborn child and be repeated at the different stages of the growth and development of the body in order to first determine which of the so-called race peculiarities are really ethnic and which are merely the result of gradual development or external circumstances, as the influence of climate, economic conditions and occupation on the growing organism.

Dr Weissenberg used for his *corpora operationis* 1,029 men, between the ages of 5 and 75, and 303 women, varying from 5 to 40 years of age. His measurements extended to about fifty particulars. He studied, in addition, the question of the progressive darkening of the colors of the hair and iris on 224 boys and 221 girls, ranging in age from 1 to 5 years.

*Abstract of an article entitled "Die südrussischen Juden. Eine anthropometrische Studie." By Dr S. Weissenberg. Archiv für Anthropologie, vol. XXIII, pp. 347-423 and 531-579.

The result of the investigation may be summed up as follows: The Jews of southern Russia, as compared with the Belgians, Swedes, and Russians (after the measurements of Quételet, Axel Key, and Sack respectively), are of medium stature; they have comparatively long bodies and short limbs; the form of the head is chamæbrachy-cephalic and exhibits a large cephalic index. The form of the face is oval, narrowing in the lower part, with a straight flat brow, relatively prominent cheek-bones, and straight jaws; the direction of the eyes is horizontal; the nose is leptorrhine and somewhat prominent, but usually straight, the "Semitic nose" being represented by only 10 per cent; the lips are regular; the mouth is somewhat broad, and the ears are of medium size. While until the fifth year light tints prevail in the color of the hair, at the age of ten the dark-haired constitute 75 per cent, and at twenty about 82 per cent. The same progressive darkening is observed in the color of the iris. Concerning weight and muscular strength (lift and pressure), the Jews stand lower than most Europeans. Until the twentieth year the development of the bodily strength of the Jews runs parallel with that of the Belgians and white Americans (after Gould); but, while with the two latter peoples it goes on increasing until the thirtieth year, it remains stationary with the Jews until that period, and then begins rapidly to decline. This early exhaustion of strength of the Jews, which finds its external expression in narrowness of the thorax, is, Dr Weissenberg contends in opposition to André, not due to a racial peculiarity, but to external circumstances, such as early beginning of mental work, prevalence of sedentary occupations, early marriages, and the sharper struggle for existence superinduced by them.

Of special interest are Dr Weissenberg's observations on the Jewish type and the "Jews as a race," to which the closing chapter is particularly devoted. He asserts that his investigations have convinced him of a "complete agreement in the development of the Jews of southern Russia with that of other European nations." He scouts the idea of a pronounced Jewish type, by reason of which a Jew can be diagnosed at a glance, as a popular myth ("Laienfabel"). It is not anthropologic but ethnographic elements (attire, religious customs, expression of the face, carriage of the body) that make the Jew discernible. He also rejects the two-type theory—*i. e.*, the division of the Jews

into the two distinct types of the *Sephardim* or Spanish and *Ashkenazim* or German Jews. Observations of such characteristic features as the color of the hair and eyes, the cephalic index, etc., lead him to assume that the Jews of eastern Europe, and especially those of southern Russia, are composed of several anthropologically different types which are far removed from the original Semitic type preserved in the Arabs. Dr Weissenberg accounts for this transformation of the type of the Jews in southern Russia and in eastern Europe by assuming an early migration of the Jews over the Caucasus and the south Russian steppes. During this migration their mingling with other peoples, which may have begun in antiquity, attained, through Judaizing of surrounding tribes, its highest degree. In the close contact with the pronounced brachycephalic peoples of the Caucasus, as also with the Turkish tribe of the Chazars, who in the eighth century were converted to Judaism, we have, he says, the elements which perfectly explain the almost absolute brachycephaly of the Jews, as also the frequency of mongoloid characteristics.

Dr Weissenberg's treatise is filled with interesting and instructive points of a general nature, such as the relations of pubescence, climate, geological nature of the soil, economic conditions, and occupation to the growth and development of the body, etc.; its usefulness is much enhanced by numerous comparative tables, diagrams, and photographs.

I. M. CASANOWICZ.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ARCHEOLOGY.—While engaged in grading for a race-track at Bennings, near Washington city, workmen recently uncovered a number of arrow and spear points and a quantity of pottery. The site was probably that of a village of the Anacostia Indians.

THE FLINDERS-PETRIE COLLECTION of relics from the tombs and towns of the Libyan settlers in Egypt was formally placed on exhibition at the University of Pennsylvania on March 21. In the course of an address delivered on this occasion Dr William Pepper announced that the value of the collections in the University museum is estimated at \$750,000.